

## LEBANON DAILY SHARED TOURS

### GUARANTEED DEPARTURES

Valid till 31 March 2024

#### MONDAY

Sidon, Tyre & Maghdouche	Full day without lunch	\$78
Tripoli, Saydet El Nourieh & Batroun	Full day with lunch	\$78

#### TUESDAY

Jeita, Harissa, Harissa & Byblos	Full day with lunch	\$88
Beirut, Beiteddine & Deir El Kamar	Full day with lunch	\$88
Beirut Historical Tour (AM)	Half day without lunch	\$38
Beiteddine & Deir El Kamar (Noon)	Half day with lunch	\$78

#### WEDNESDAY

Baalbeck, Anjar & Ksara Winery	Full day with lunch	\$88
Cedars, Becharreh & Kozhaya	Full day with lunch	\$78

#### THURSDAY

Sidon, Tyre & Maghdouche	Full day with lunch	\$88
Jeita, Harissa & Byblos	Full day without lunch	\$78
Tripoli, Saydet El Nouriyeh & Batroun	Full day with lunch	\$78

#### FRIDAY

Baalbeck, Anjar & Ksara	Full day with lunch	\$88
Beirut, Beiteddine & Deir El Kamar	Full day with lunch	\$88
Beirut Historical Tour (AM)	Half day without lunch	\$38
Beiteddine & Deir El Kamar (Noon)	Half day with lunch	\$78

#### SATURDAY

Baalbeck, Anjar & Ksara	Full day without lunch	\$78
Jeita, Harissa & Byblos	Full day with lunch	\$88

#### SUNDAY

Baalbeck, Anjar & Ksara Winery	Full day with lunch	\$88
Cedars, Becharreh & Kozhaya	Full day with lunch	\$78

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

**BADARO: 01-395600**

**P.O. Box: 116-5019, Beirut – Lebanon**

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- Rates are per person, including transportation in deluxe motorcoaches or vans, services of professional guides, lunch, entrance fees and VAT.
- Lunches are served at Lebanese restaurants with a set menu of Lebanese Mezze, with one small glass of arak or one soft drink.
- Children up to 3 years are free of charge but have no seat.
- Children between 4 and 12 years get \$15 discount. No discount for half day tours and tours without lunch.
- Tours are operated with minimum 2 persons
- Free pickup from hotels located in Beirut (No pickup from hostels or apartments).

**All prices and programs are subject to change without any prior notice.**

## Tours Descriptions

### Sidon Tyre & Maghdouche:

#### **Sidon**

The third great Phoenician city-state, Sidon's origins are lost from memory. The name was mentioned in the texts for the first time in the 14th century B.C. in the 'Tell El Amara Letters'. But it was during the Persian era, between the end of the 6th century B.C. and the mid-4th century B.C. that the city experienced its golden age. Sidon was an open city with many cultural influences, including the Egyptian and the Greek.

During the Persian period, Aegean sculptors contributed to the nearby temple of Eshmoun, the city's god. He was associated with the Aesculapius, the Greek god of healing.

After its revolt against the Persians and destructions in 351 B.C., Sidon never regained its former glory. But the city's position had improved by 551 A.D., when after the disastrous earthquake of that year it was chosen as the site of Beirut law school. The crusader period, between 1110 and 1291, brought Sidon new prestige as the second of the four baronies of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Today the ruins of the Crusader Sea Castle and the Castle of Saint-Louis, known as the land castle, can still be seen in Sidon.

From the Mamluke and Ottoman periods we have the Great Mosque, built on the foundations of a Crusader building and the Khan 'el – Franj" built by Fakhreddine II. Today

the town 41 Kilometers from Beirut, has grown into a thriving commercial and business centre serving the entire region.

**Debbane Palace-Sidon:** Debbane Palace is an 18th-century building in Saida, built by Ali Hammoud in 1721. The atmospheric space features typical diwans (Oriental style living rooms), a liwan (a long narrow-fronted hall), several rooms and an open-air courtyard, with the characteristic features of the Ottoman period – brown and white stripes of stone and intricate mosaic tiles making up the interior. Despite its location on the bustling streets of Saida, the house is a peaceful escape.

**Hamмам El Jadeed-Sidon:** Hammam Al Jadeed is the largest and most significant bathhouses located in the ancient city of Saida, in the neighborhood known as "Hammam Al Jadeed District". Built in 1720, it was closed down in the late 1940s then re-opened in May 2019 as a heritage and cultural venue has remarkable ornaments and consists of a large hallway and several small rooms with Ottoman structural design.

#### **Tyre**

Although the earliest origins of Tyre are unknown, the testimonies of ancient historians and some archeological evidence suggest that it goes back to the start of the 3rd millennium B.C. Originally a mainland settlement with an island city a short distance offshore, it came of age in the 10th century B.C. when King Hiram expanded the mainland and built two ports and a temple to Melkart, the city's flourishing maritime trade's god. Its flourishing maritime trade, Mediterranean colonies and its purple dye and glass industries made Tyre very powerful and wealthy. But the city's wealth attracted enemies.

In the sixth century B.C. the Tyrians successfully defied Nebuchadnezzar for 13 years. Alexander the Great laid siege to it for 7 months, finally overwhelming the island city by constructing a great causeway from the shore to the island. In their day the Romans built a magnificent city at Tyre. The remains of its Roman streets, arcades and public buildings, including one of the largest hippodromes of the period, are Tyre's major attractions today.

Occupied by the Moslem Arabs in 636, then captured in 1124 by the Crusaders, Tyre was an important fortified town of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. In 1291 the Mamlukes took the city, then during the 400-year Ottoman period beginning in 1516, it remained a quiet fishing town.

In 1984 Tyre's important archeological remains prompted UNESCO to make the town a world heritage site. Located 79 km from Beirut, prosperous Tyre is notable for its many high-rise buildings. Nevertheless, the inner city has retained its industrious maritime character and its interesting old-style houses.

### **Maghdouché**

The name, Maghdouché, originates from the Syriac word, which means "crop collectors." It is also derived from the Syriac word Kidsh and its derivatives (Kadisho, Kadishat, Makdosho). In Hebrew, it means "holy" or "saintly." According to Christian belief, when Jesus came to Sidon, the Virgin Mary who accompanied him, waited for him at the top of the hill where Maghdouché is located today. She spent the night in a cave that came to be known as Mantara, or the "Awaiting."

Emperor Constantine the Great responded to St. Hélène's request and transformed the cave into a sanctuary for the Virgin. He erected a tower in honor of the Virgin. The tower collapsed during the earthquake of 550. Later, King Louis IX erected a watching tower in the same location. The Mantara cave was once again discovered accidentally by a shepherd in 1726. An icon of the Virgin was also discovered, and it was of Byzantine style, dating back to the 7th or to the 8th century. Since then, the cave has been transformed into a place of pilgrimage for all the Lebanese confessions. In 1860, the Greek Catholic Church became the owner, and transformed the cave into a sanctuary in 1880.

At the beginning of the sixties, under the auspices of Mgr Basile Khoury, renowned architect Varoujan Zaven designed and executed a beautiful hexagonal chapel topped by a 36-meter tower in a conical shape to support an 8-and-a-half-meter one-piece bronze statue of the Virgin Mary holding Jesus in her arms, of his own design as well, realized by Italian artist Pierrotti in Pietra Santa. The design and supervision of the project were both a donation on behalf of the architect. Our Lady of Mantara is considered the protectress of children, and many baptisms are celebrated at the sanctuary.

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## Beirut Panoramic City Tour, Beiteddine & Deir El Kamar:

### Beirut

Bus tour of Beirut's most famous landmarks, like Raouche, Zaytouna Bay and Downtown. It is the perfect way to check the city and get to know it easily.

Visit of National Museum of Beirut, which is the main archeological museum in Lebanon

### Beiteddine

Forty-three kilometers from Beirut stands this magnificent palace built at the beginning of the 19th century by Emir Bechir II, who reigned over Lebanon for more than 50 years. With its arcades, galleries and rooms decorated by artists from Lebanon, Damascus and Italy, this building is a model of eastern architecture.

Today the palace houses a museum of feudal weapons, costumes and jewelry as well as an archeological museum and a museum of Byzantine mosaics.

### Deir El Kamar

Deir El Kamar was the capital of Mount Lebanon, located 35 km away from Beirut, now it is a typical Lebanese village with its historical center, souk (market), museum, mosque & churches.

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## Jeita Byblos & Harissa

### Jeita

Nominated for the seven world wonders. Jeita is one of the world's most beautiful cavern, at 20 km away north of Beirut. The lower caverns are visited by boat over a subterranean lake 623 meters long. A dry upper gallery can be seen on foot.

After many years of exploration, Lebanese speleologists have penetrated 6,910 meters from the entry point of the grotto to the far end of the underground River and 2,130 meters of the upper galleries. The main source of the Dog River (Nahr El Kalb) rises in this cavern.

### Byblos

One of the oldest towns in the world goes back at least 7,000 years. The rise and fall of nearly two dozen successive levels of human culture on this site makes it one of the richest archeological areas in the country.

Under the domination of the Egyptian pharaohs in the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C, Byblos was a commercial and religious capital of the Phoenician coast.

It was in Byblos where the first linear alphabet, ancestor of all modern alphabet, (through Greek and Latin), was invented. The sarcophagus of Byblos' king Ahiiram, now in the national museum, bears the oldest known Phoenician inscription. Byblos was also the centre of the Adonis cult, the god of vegetation who dies in winter and renewed each spring.

Like its sister cities, Byblos was destroyed in the earthquake of 551 A.D. It regained some consequence in crusader times when it came under the county of Tripoli. A modest town under the Mamluks and ottomans, Byblos grew rapidly during the recent war in Lebanon when commercial activities moved from Beirut to regional capitals.

This busy modern town located at 36 kilometers north of Beirut, has the "Roman Medieval port" as its main tourist hub. The landmarks in this area are: the crusader castle and church as well as the extensive remains of city's past - from

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Neolithic times to the crusader era. A beautiful Mosque adds to the cultural mix in the old part of Byblos. And all around a diversity of cafes and restaurants can be found.

### **Harissa**

600 meters above sea level and 26 km away from Beirut, with a wonderful panoramic view covering the Bay of Jounieh. Statue of the Virgin Mary was erected in 1908. Inside its base, a chapel with outside spiral staircase that leads to the top, as well telepheric service is provided from the bay of Jounieh to the mountain of Harissa.

## **Cedars, Becharreh & Kozhaya**

### **Cedars**

The most venerable representatives of the Cedars of Lebanon, which once covered the country's mountains, are in the Besharre region in the North of Lebanon. Hundreds of trees stand on slopes 2,000 meters high in the shadow of the 3,088-meter peak of Qornet es- Sawda. From Lebanon's cedar forests, Solomon got the timber to build his temple and palace, while the Egyptians Pharaohs used the wood carve their sarcophagi and 'sunships'.

### **Becharreh**

In the north, the picturesque gateway to the Cedars of Lebanon, is the birthplace of the famous Lebanese poet Gibran Khalil Gibran. Here one may visit the Gibran Museum and the many ancient churches and monasteries.

### **Kozhaya**

is part of the Holy valley where Maronites used to during the Ottaman's period. Monastery of St-Antoine of Kozhaya is one of the numerous monasteries built in this valley. It is built partly inside in the mountain and party outside it. It is surrounded by a very beautiful panorama of forest and valley.

## **Baalbeck, Anjar & Ksara**

### **Baalbeck**

Heliopolis: the roman temples of Baalbeck, located in the Bekaa valley 85 kilometers away from Beirut. It makes up the largest and best-preserved corpus of roman architecture left around. The acropolis occupies the top of an artificial hill built up of different layers of habitation. Its temples, dedicated to Jupiter, Bacchus and Venus, were constructed between the first and the third centuries A.D.

In the "Jupiter temple", six of the 54 giant columns that originally surrounded the sanctuary, survived till today. The temple has an impressive podium and a vast rectangular courtyard where sacrifices were carried out. The sanctuary is reached through a propylaeum (monumental entrance) and hexagonal forecourt.

The town of Baalbeck has major remains from Islamic times including the grand Mosque, built by the Ommayadds with material borrowed from ancient monuments, and another mosque built in Mamluke times near the spring of Ras El-Ain.

### **Anjar**

Anjar is located in the Bekaa valley, 58 km away from Beirut. It was built by the Omayyad caliph al- Walid Ibn Abdel Malek in the early 8th century A.D. Inside the city's strong fortifications are the remains of streets, three palaces, souks,

two hammams and a Mosque.

Located on the old route linking the Bekaa with Damascus, Anjar was built in the neighborhood of an ancient stronghold called Gerrah, which location is still problematic. Today the name of Gerrah is retained in the word 'Anjar' which means 'source of Gerrah' (Ain Gerrah).

### **Ksara**

Built during the Roman period then covered by sand for centuries, the Ksara caves were found by mistake in 1898 by the Jesuits who were looking for a wolf that was eating their chicken every night and was using the caves as a refuge.

It is now the refuge of the well-known Ksara wine where thousands of the old wine bottles are preserved. A tasting of the best wines is done during the visits.

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## **Tripoli, Saydet El Nouriyeh & Batroun**

### **Tripoli**

Tripoli has become Lebanon's second city. It is a major port, a commercial and industrial centre, and a popular beach resort. The city serves as an important oil storage and refining centre. Other industries include the manufacture of soap and cotton goods, sponge fishing, and the processing of tobacco and fruits. A coastal railway, which was closed in the mid-1970s because of the civil war, links the city with Beirut.

Historical landmarks include Taylan Mosque (1336), the Great Mosque (1294), the medieval castle of Saint Gilles, and the Tower of the Lions, built at the end of the 15th century to protect the port.

### **Saydet El Nouriyeh**

Our Lady of Nourieh is a Marian shrine in Hamat, Lebanon. *Nourieh* is a derivative of the Arabic word, *nour*, meaning light. Thus, in English, the Marian shrine can be called, **Our Lady of Light**.

The shrine is a popular Christian pilgrimage site in Lebanon, and tourists and pilgrims alike enjoy the beautiful view of the bay from atop historic Cape Theoprosopon.

### **Batroun**

Batroun is a coastal city in northern Lebanon and one of the oldest cities in the world. Batroun is a major tourist destination in North Lebanon. The town boasts historic churches, a citadel, old streets, Phoenician wall and is also a major beach resort with a vibrant nightlife.